Applicant: Masayoshi Mototani et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 23697-0012US1 / NF-2830

Serial No.: 10/573,055 Filed: March 22, 2006

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## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims**:

1. (Currently Amended) An operating lever device comprising:

a shaft which is rotated in unison with an operating lever by inclining operation of the operating lever;

a shaft support body which rotatably supports the shaft; and

a rotary damper device which generates rotation resistance at the time of the inclining operation of the operating lever,

wherein the rotary damper device includes:

a <del>plurality of damper cases, each damper case having an annular damper chamber for accommodating viscous fluid therein;</del>

a rotor which rotates against the viscous fluid in the damper chamber,

a fixing pin mounted on a body of the operating lever device, and

a damper lever fixed to one of the damper case and the rotor,

wherein a rotation center of the rotary damper device and a rotation center of the shaft are deviated from each other, [[one]] the other of the damper [[cases]] case and the rotor is mounted on the shaft, and the damper lever is hooked on the fixing pin.

2. (Previously Presented) The operating lever device according to claim 1, wherein a hooking position between the fixing pin and the damper lever can be adjusted.

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3. (Previously Presented) The operating lever device according to claim 2, wherein the operating lever device comprises an adjusting mechanism which adjusts a ratio between a distance from the rotation center of the shaft to the fixing pin, and a distance from the rotation center of the rotary damper device to the fixing pin, wherein

the adjusting mechanism is configured such that a mount provided on the damper case or the rotor can be mounted on plural mounting positions relatively with respect to the shaft, and the plural mounting positions are configured as plural positions which make the rotation center of the rotary damper device separated from a line connecting the rotation center of the shaft with the fixing pin.

4. (Previously Presented) The operating lever device according to claim 3, wherein the mount and each of mounting portions of the shaft, on which the mount is mounted, are disposed on an upper portion of a floor on which the shaft support body is mounted.